

The University of Toronto

## German Drama in Translation

German 240H / Fall 2010

Instructor: **JOHN NOYES**

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Class meets on **Tue 12-2 & Thu 12-1, Room: TBA**

### Outline

This course offers a window into salient moments in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century German drama. The course will not provide a comprehensive historical overview (though it will begin with an outline for the sake of orientation). Instead, it will give students insight into specific historical moments in the development of German drama. We will read the texts of the drama and examine aspects of their realization (and potential for realization) on stage. We will, in particular, be interested in how dramatic form is used to establish a public dialogue between the performed text and the historical moment of performance. We will study texts within their historical context in terms of such aspects as plot, characterization, theme, structure, style and language. Course emphasis is on the reading and discussion of the texts. In addition, we will pay attention to dramatic theory and to practical aspects of theater productions. In-class text discussions are facilitated by written reading questions which are distributed in advance. Classes include lectures, discussions, short film clips and student presentations. There is a take-home mid-term and a final paper.

### Evaluation

30%	Final paper (6-8 pages on special topic)
25%	Weekly homework (mostly short reading reactions)
20%	Attendance & <u>active</u> participation
15%	Midterm take-home test
10%	In-class presentation (& concise 1p-handout)

Note: The final grade is an accumulative grade. Low grades you receive early in the term will hurt you in the end (i.e. result in a lower course grade). There is no way to make up for bad grades or missed assignments. If problems should arise during the semester, you are advised to talk to me as soon as possible. Simply schedule an appointment with me or address me after the class session.

Attendance & participation grade: Regular attendance is an absolute must. You may miss one session unexcused, but each additional absence will lower your attendance & participation grade by 10%. Please inform me in advance if you need to miss a session and make sure to send me assignments on time to receive credit for them. You're expected to come prepared and to be an active participant. Simply showing up will only 'earn' you a passing grade; for a higher mark you need to contribute to class discussions.

Readings & homework assignments are given in each class session (and you are required to submit them all), but only the 8 highest scores count toward your final grade. Assignments consist of answering questions about the readings distributed in advance, but you may also be asked to research authors and/or plays and prepare handouts with contextual information and biographical sketches or write short reactions papers, etc. Assignments are to be turned in typed & on time. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Short in-class presentation of app. 10 minutes: Topics are provided by me, but you may suggest own topics (which need to be pre-approved by me). Assignments include a one-page handout (to be sent to me two days in advance for approval) & visual material. The presenter provides copies of the handout for the class. Evaluation: 50% presentation, 25% handout, 25% meeting all deadlines.

The midterm exam will cover Bourgeois Tragedy to Epic Theater, and the format will be take-home; you are to respond to three tasks in well structured essays of 400-500 words each.

For the final paper (6-8 pages [app. 2000 words], plus bibliography) you choose your own topic in accordance with following guidelines: (1) It has to focus on a post-1945 play or topic. (2) It may not be directly connected to your presentation. (3) You need to get your topic approved by me before getting started on it. Topics can be discussed after class sessions. (Typically you'll choose one of the plays we discussed in class and compare it to a play that wasn't on our reading list.)

### **Texts to be purchased**

- Georg Buchner: Woyzeck (ISBN: 0192836501)
- Frank Wedekind: Spring's Awakening (ISBN: 1557832455)
- Bertolt Brecht: Mother Courage and her Children (ISBN: 9780143105282)
- Friedrich Dürrenmatt: The Visit (ISBN: 0802130666)
- Peter Weiss: The Investigation (ISBN: 0714503010)
- Heiner Mueller: Hamletmachine

Texts will be available at Victoria College Bookstore (on 91 Charles Str., West Main Floor [Old Vic Building]); a **Reader** containing the other plays & additional texts is available for purchase at Tru-Copy (at 1033 Bay Str., near St. Joseph Str.)

## Individual Class Sessions

Week 1	Sept. 14	<u>Introduction</u> Short overview of modern German drama not a historical course what do students want from this course?
	Sept. 16	Text [in class]: Opening and closing scenes of Goethe's <i>Faust</i> (1773-1832)
Week 2	Sept. 21	Büchner: <i>Woyzeck</i> (1836)
	Sept. 23	Büchner: <i>Woyzeck</i> (1836)
Week 3	Sept. 28	Büchner: <i>Woyzeck</i> (1836)
	Sept. 30	Büchner: <i>Woyzeck</i> (1836)
Week 4	Oct. 5	Wedekind: <i>Spring's Awakening</i> (1891)
	Oct. 7	Wedekind: <i>Spring's Awakening</i> (1891)
Week 5	Oct. 12	Wedekind: <i>Spring's Awakening</i> (1891)
	Oct. 14	Wedekind: <i>Spring's Awakening</i> (1891)
Week 6	Oct. 19	Brecht: <i>Mother Courage and her Children</i> (193?)
	Oct. 21	Brecht: <i>Mother Courage and her Children</i> (193?)
Week 7	Oct. 26	Brecht: <i>Mother Courage and her Children</i> (193?)
	Oct. 28	Brecht: <i>Mother Courage and her Children</i> (193?)
Week 8	Nov. 2	Dürrenmatt: <i>The Visit</i> (1956)
	Nov. 4	Dürrenmatt: <i>The Visit</i> (1956)
Week 9	Nov. 9	Dürrenmatt: <i>The Visit</i> (1956)
	Nov. 11	Dürrenmatt: <i>The Visit</i> (1956)
Week 10	Nov. 16	Weiss: <i>The Investigation</i> (1964)
	Nov. 18	Weiss: <i>The Investigation</i> (1964)
Week 11	Nov. 23	Weiss: <i>The Investigation</i> (1964)
	Nov. 25	Weiss: <i>The Investigation</i> (1964)
Week 12	Nov. 30	Müller: <i>Hamletmaschine</i> (1979)
	Dec. 2	Müller: <i>Hamletmaschine</i>
Week 13	Dec. 7	Müller: <i>Hamletmaschine</i>

